

### SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

1. Please replace the paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] In contrast to FIG. 3, in the case of the fuel injection valve shown in FIG. 4 the gap 28 is incorporated in the nozzle body 8, said gap 28 being implemented as an elongated recess in the nozzle body 8. As depicted in FIG. 4, nozzle needle tip 10 may be provided directly adjacent the frusto-conical body section 24 of the nozzle needle, and each of the nozzle needle tip 10 and frusto-conical body section 24 may have essentially the same included angle. The fuel flows in the direction of the arrow P into the upper end of the circumferential recess and is forced into the gap 28 between the outer surface of the frusto-conical body section 24 of the nozzle needle and the opposite section of the inner surface 26 of the nozzle body 8 when the valve closes, the axial movement of the nozzle needle 2 being damped and the nozzle needle 2 being simultaneously hydraulically guided and precisely centered by the fuel pressure in the circumferential gap 28.